

*Notice of the Natural History of St. Kitts.*

By the late J. R. ELSEY, jun., Esq.

*To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,—I received the enclosed account of St. Kitts from my late friend Mr. J. R. Elsey, who, on his return from the arduous North Australian Expedition, was obliged to go to St. Kitts for the recovery of his health. He there very shortly fell a victim to fever.

Yours truly,

J. E. GRAY.

“St. Kitts, Nov. 29, 1857.

“I have now been in the island a week, and am able to give you some little account of it. The hills and small table-land abound with very fine land-shells. These parts are rarely visited, and I know of no one who has been up Mount Misery, or collected in the hills. About 2000 feet up among the hills is a very singular table-land, well watered: this is, I expect, a rich field. At the south, limestone and chalk are said to exist. If so, they will create a variety. On the leeward side of the island, near the town, there is a coarse sandy beach; about half a mile south of it, the *terras*, as it is called, underlying the surface-soil, runs down to the water, forming a low cliff, with a shallow ledge and broken rocks under it. This is a fine spot for all sorts of Actiniæ, Echini, Star-fishes, Nereids, Nudibranchs: these are singularly beautiful. I have a small aquarium with some of these in it, doing very well. I should like to know something of the Nudibranchs. On the opposite windward side, a low reef (coral?) runs along the shore at some 50 yards distant. Within is a smooth pool of water, from 1 to 5 feet deep, with ledges of rock, forming a glorious field for examination; outside it deepens rapidly. There are also large still ponds of salt water; these are not very healthy, but will doubtless be worth dredging.”

“Dec. 14, 1857. .

“I forward you this day a small parcel containing Lepidoptera; one box with them *fixed in position*, the other with them wrapped up flat in pieces of paper.

“A box of 27 species of sea-shells.

“A box containing shells from *terras*, or beds of recent (present?) formation, forming the subsoil from the shore to the foot of the hills.

“As regards Lepidoptera, I am anxious to know in which way they travel best. The weather has been too wet to get any night-moths; but when I move from this spot, as I shall soon, for a week or two, I hope to make a more interesting collection.

“I am preparing at my leisure the lingual ribbons of all the Mollusca I can lay my hands on, and am anxious to know their correct names.

“I hope to send to you shortly good specimens (2 feet square) of the *terras*; it contains, I think, both land- and sea-shells,—*Arca*, *Nerita*, *Lymnea*?

“I have been laid-by the last three or four days by a severe headache, relieved only by lying down; and as soon as this mail goes, I must seek rest for a day or two.”

Alas! he died in a few days, at the early age of twenty-four.

*On the Nidification of Crustacea.*

*To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.*

8 Mulgrave Place, Plymouth, March 13, 1858.

GENTLEMEN,—In the paper on the ‘Nidification of Crustacea,’ recently published in your Journal, I omitted to notice the observations of Mr. Gosse on the subject in his ‘Rambles of a Naturalist on the Devonshire Coast,’ p. 282. He there records, under the title of the ‘Caddis Shrimp,’ taking an Amphipod that occupied a tube, which he presumed had been constructed by the occupant, and suggests the probability that Say’s species may likewise have built its case. The crustacean found by Mr. Gosse was, from the careful figures that he has made of the *pereiopoda*, evidently a *Siphonocetus*, and not a *Podocerus*, as he stated; although, from a communication I have had with Mr. Gosse on the subject, it appears to be surrounded by species of the latter genus.

It is due to Mr. Gosse that reference should have been made to his early and interesting notice of these animals, the omission of which in my paper I much regret.

I am, Gentlemen, Yours obediently,

C. SPENCE BATE.

*Note on the Occurrence of Dasya venusta.*

By Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S. &c.

This plant was discovered by Miss White, in 1846, in Jersey, and finer specimens have since been found in the same island by Miss Turner; but hitherto it has not been recorded as found on the coast of England. Mrs. Gray collected several specimens of it on the 5th of October, 1855, on the shore of Bognor in Sussex, and I have lately received a very fine specimen from Brighton.

PROF. OWEN’S LECTURES ON PALÆONTOLOGY.

The following Course of Lectures is now being delivered at the Theatre of the Museum of Practical Geology, by Prof. Owen, F.R.S., Superintendent of the Natural History Departments, British Museum.

LECTURES I. AND II. (*March 18th and 19th.*)

FOSSIL BIRDS.—Various modes in which the evidences of evanescent things become recognizably preserved in rock: such as meteoric phænomena, foot-prints, soft and soluble plants and animals; causes operating to render scarce the fossil remains of birds. None as yet found in strata anterior to the tertiary period: evidence of birds in earlier formations afforded by foot-prints. Peculiarities of the feet of birds; of the numerical ratio of the phalanges of the toes.